

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1983

Lebanon

Netanya Talks — The signing of the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement will take place on 17 May, chief Lebanese delegate Antoine Fattal said on 13 May prior to his departure for Netanya, according to Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio. Today's meeting, expected to be the last one prior to formal signing of the agreement in the presence of the U.S. delegation in Khaldah and Netanya, will be confined to a final review of the draft, the Lebanese delegate said. Although Tel Aviv IDF Radio reported earlier that the stage of clarifications concerning the agreement "has ended to Israel's satisfaction" and that Major Sa'd Haddad has been assured a "central post and expanded authority" in southern Lebanon, later Jerusalem radio and television reports indicated that last-minute differences continue concerning Haddad's status.

Lebanese Position, Contacts — The Lebanese Cabinet decided to delay approval of the draft agreement and continue discussing its provisions, AFP and Beirut radio reported following President Amin al-Jumayyil's briefing of the Cabinet during a special session on 12 May. The communique issued after their meeting indicated that the ministers had decided to continue their examination of the proposed accord and the clarifications supplied by Middle East envoy Philip Habib, AFP said. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Elie Salim and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam agreed to continue their talks for another day prior to Salim's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Before leaving for Damascus, Salim said he is undertaking the trip with an "open mind" in order to explain Lebanon's position and prove that the agreement has secured "important gains" for Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. He stressed that Lebanon is "anxious to safeguard Arab interests" as much as its own and asked for Arab understanding of Lebanon's stand and circumstances.

Earlier, President al-Asad's special envoy, Major General Muhammad al-Khuli, delivered messages from the Syrian leader during meetings with former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Beirut radio reported. Al-Khuli said his talks with Rashid Karami were "positive" and hoped that they will bring "good" to Lebanon. In another development SANA quoted Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt as saying that the agreement is "unjustifiable" because it gives Israel security, political, and economic privileges that "undermine Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and pan-Arab affiliation." Junblatt's remarks were contained in a statement issued following 2 days of meetings with Syrian officials in Damascus.

Security Situation — An Israeli soldier was killed 11 May by small arms fire in Al-Biq'a, IDF Radio announced. Damascus radio accused Israel of reinforcing its positions along the contact lines in the same area by introducing a "large number" of heavy tanks, long-range heavy artillery, and other materiel.

Saudi Arabia

The withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon is "inevitable," and there can be no linkage between an Israeli withdrawal and an evacuation of Syrian troops, Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said following his meeting with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in Paris. According to AFP, Weinberger sought to enlist Saudi influence in convincing Syria to accept an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. SPA reported that U.S.-Saudi cooperation was the subject of the meeting and that the question of Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon was not raised.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by other PLO officials, arrived in Damascus from Tunis, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio said that the reason behind the "unexpected" visit is the reported emergence of signs of division in Fatah's ranks. Earlier, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio said that clashes took place between Palestinian factions inside a Fatah camp in Lebanon and that PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir was detained by followers of a pro-Syrian group.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

More than 80 people were killed or wounded in the city of Dezful following an Iraqi missile attack, Tehran radio reported on 12 May. An earlier missile attack the same day against Andimeshk killed 17 people died and wounded 123 others, according to another report by the radio. Iran vowed to "avenge" the victims and not allow the Iraqis "to continue their crimes with impunity," President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said in a broadcast by Tehran radio.

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Islamic Affairs Department Lauds U.S. Expulsion

*LD121813 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Here is an announcement by the Islamic Affairs Department of the DRA concerning the unlawful actions contrary to human dignity by the second secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul:

Diplomatic relations between countries, which are founded on the basis of the UN Charter, the Declaration of Human Rights, and [word indistinct] between states, require mutual respect between states, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and equality of rights. This requires that embassy staff and other foreign nationals residing in a country should abide by the laws and regulations of that country.

The decisive majority of Afghanistan's population are Muslims who have a pure culture. Every individual Muslim deems it his duty to train his children and relatives in healthy ways. As the holy Koran instructs: O Muslims, protect your children and relatives from the fire of hell! It is obvious that protection from the fire of hell cannot be achieved without correct ethical training. Also, a Hadith [words of the prophet Mohammad] says: Train your children, raise them with good ethics. Moreover, another Hadith says: Hazrat-e Mohammad, peace be upon him, has said: I was sent in order to complete the good ethics of man.

Briefly, the sacred religion of Islam, to the extent that good ethics are looked upon favorably, to the same extent the actions and deeds of those who create anxiety in the minds of people and who pervert them and encourage them to commit evil, are looked upon with hatred and indignation and are considered a satan in human form. Sora-e al-Nas, which is the last verse of the holy Koran, particularly refers to this. Thus, actions contrary to the religion, ethics, and culture of our country are resolutely forbidden.

However, Peter Graham, second secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, contrary to international norms and regulations, encouraged and recruited our people, particularly the youth of our country, to carry out deeds contrary to the religion, ethics, and traditions of our people by distributing photographs of naked people. This was discovered by the country's security forces and the documents relating to this case have been seized.

Throughout history, international imperialism has consistently tried to weaken the religious beliefs and national feelings of the people to prepare the grounds for the continued existence of colonialism. For example, it encouraged addiction to opium in China and in other nations. However, it is most surprising that

the imperialists, particularly the United States, hypocritically try to introduce themselves as the friends of Muslim countries while secretly undertaking subversive and abominable actions against the sacred religion of Islam and corrupting the young generation of our country. These sorts of deeds, as Mohammad — peace be upon him and his family — said: Hypocrites are the most rebellious people whose overt and covert actions are not the same, deceive naive people, and are the most terrible of people. Therefore, we the ulema and religious leaders of the Islamic Affairs Department condemn this unlawful action of the aforementioned secretary and express our profound hatred and indignation. We welcome and affirm his expulsion from the DRA by the DRA state authorities. We ask all our compatriots to recognize better the true face of the United States, which boasts of defending the people of Afghanistan.

Grace is with God.

Activities of Expelled U.S. Diplomat Reported

LD121847 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Kabul 12 May (BAKHTAR) — Colonialism and imperialism in their old and new features, plundering the material wealth of the masses, invade the spiritual wealth and moral values of human societies, and by circulating various kinds of moral deviations, weaken the combatant ability of the people particularly the young generation.

In the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan, imperialism has also used every inhuman tactic: exporting weapons and providing military training to the bandits, creating springboard bases on the borders of our country against the revolution, and promoting corruption. Imperialism commits all these crimes under the guise of the defense of Islam.

We mention another example of these activities: Peter Graham, the second secretary of the U.S. Embassy — who had been circulating among the youth immoral magazines against human dignity — has acted against international agreements and accepted principles in diplomatic relations between countries and has misused diplomatic immunity. He was expelled from Afghanistan on 10 May at 1100, according to the decision of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The noble people of Afghanistan denounce such diplomatic activities and consider them to be against the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and a hostile action against the people of the DRA by U.S. imperialism.

USSR's Arkhipov Calls on Rao, Gandhi in Delhi

*BK120916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] Mr I.V. Arkhipov is understood to have delivered a message from the Soviet leader, Mr Yuriy Andropov, to the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi. Mr Arkhipov had a 40-minute meeting with her at which they reviewed the general international situation, bilateral relations, and economic cooperation. The meeting is the first high-level contact with the Soviet Union after the recent New Delhi nonaligned summit. Mrs Gandhi, as chairperson of the movement, is believed to have explained to Mr Arkhipov the decisions taken at the summit, especially the economic aspects of the declaration.

Mr Arkhipov, who arrived in New Delhi last night, called on the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, earlier this morning. They were together for about 45 minutes.

Economic Assistance Discussed

*BK121648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] The Soviet Union has assured New Delhi that it will continue to assist the projects which are of importance to India's national economy. These are in steel making, power generation, oil exploration, coal, science, and technology. The entire range of economic cooperation between the two countries was reviewed in New Delhi today at separate meetings between a top-level Soviet delegation and several ministers. The delegation is led by Mr Arkhipov, the Soviet first deputy prime minister, while the Indian delegation to the formal talks is headed by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao.

Mr Arkhipov had a meeting with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and he also signed an agreement with the finance minister, Mr Mukherjee, on the second phase of the Visakhapatnam steel project. Mrs Gandhi told Mr Arkhipov that the friendly relations between India and the Soviet Union are useful not only to the two countries, but also to Asia and beyond. Mr Arkhipov complimented her on the great success of the recent nonaligned summit which, he said, was largely due to her own efforts. They discussed the outcome of the summit, including the economic declaration. Mrs Gandhi particularly stressed the imperative need for general and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. The two leaders also exchanged views on the situation in their respective regions.

Later, the two delegations reviewed major areas of ongoing cooperation and also examined potential areas where cooperation is possible. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress of the projects under way. An official spokesman told newsmen that the projects in which cooperation is envisaged include a thermal power plant at Vindhyachal for which the detailed project report has already been received by the Indian side.

About nuclear power generation, the Soviet side confirmed its offer of assistance in setting up two plants, each of 440 megawatt capacity, instead of an earlier proposal for a 1,000-megawatt project. India is examining the new offer.

About the Visakhapatnam steel plant, the two sides are determined to ensure that the first phase comes into operation in 1986, producing 1.2 million tons of steel annually.

Under the agreement signed today, the Soviet Union will provide a credit of about 1,400 million rupees for the supply of goods and services required for the second stage of the project.

Rao, Arkhipov Address Banquet

*BK130742 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
13 May 83*

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have pledged to give a big boost to their growing economic and technical cooperation and open new areas of collaboration in high technology. Speaking at a dinner given in honor of the visiting Soviet deputy prime minister, Arkhipov, in New Delhi last night, the external affairs minister, Narasimha Rao, said the India-Soviet cooperation has demonstrated firmness and capacity for growth taking into account the changing capabilities and requirements of both sides. He said the credit agreement for 1,400 million rupees for the Vishakhapatnam steel plant has marked continuation of bilateral industrial cooperation.

Rao spoke of the increased relevance of the Nonaligned Movement in resolving world political problems and overcoming the deepening international economic crisis. He said: We are continuing our efforts to promote peace and cooperation, particularly in our own region. India seeks Soviet cooperation and understanding in resolving world economic problems. Rao said we must find collective solutions to the common problems.

In his reply Arkhipov said the Soviet Union highly values India's contribution to promote the cause of the Nonaligned Movement. Noting that India enjoys high respect in the Soviet Union, he said the time-tested friendship between the two countries is a precious asset for our people. It also serves as an important factor of universal peace and stability.

Steel Plant Aid

*BK120955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement for the construction of the second stage of the Visakhapatnam steel plant. Under the agreement the Soviet Union will provide a credit of about 1,400 million rupees for the supply of goods and services required for the project. The agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, and the visiting first deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union, Mr Arkhipov.

The Soviet Union, which is also providing techno-economic assistance, had earlier given a loan of 2,500 million [rupees] to meet the cost of equipment and services for the first blast furnace. Both these credits are repayable over a period of 20 years with an interest of 2.5 percent per annum. The Visakhapatnam steel plant will have a total capacity of 3.4 million tons per annum.

Gandhi Presents Plan To Curb Communal Clashes

*BK121794 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] The prime minister has written to the home minister and other central ministers, giving them an immediate plan of action to curb communalism. In a four-page letter sent to them today, Mrs Gandhi referred to the increase of communalism in recent months and the large number of attacks on the lives and properties of minorities. She said these incidents have been deliberately created by militant communal elements and there is need to take new initiatives to combat this growth of communalism.

She said a special cell will be created in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with matters relating to minorities on a continuing basis. This would help in allaying the apprehensions of the minorities and redressing their genuine grievances.

About dealing with communal riots, Mrs Gandhi said the state governments are being advised that, in communally sensitive and riot-prone areas, the best police officials, known for their highest efficiency, impartiality, and secular record, must be posted. The prevention of communal tension should be one of the primary duties of the district magistrate and the superintendent of police. Their performance in this regard should determine their promotion prospects.

Mrs Gandhi suggested that special courts should be set up to try communal offences and severe action should be taken against all those who incite communal tension. Victims of communal riots should be given immediate relief and financial assistance for rehabilitation. Radio and doordarsan [television] must also help in restoring confidence, communal harmony, and peace in affected areas.

She said it is unfortunate that certain sections of the press sometimes indulge in publishing material which may incite communal tension. She hoped that the editors and all others concerned will cooperate.

The prime minister said a special consideration should be given to minorities in recruitment of state and central police services. Employment opportunities to minorities should also be provided by the railways, nationalized banks, and public sector enterprises.

Mrs Gandhi also said that, in implementing the 20-point program, care should be taken to see that minorities secure a fair share of benefits.

The prime minister hoped that all these measures will facilitate the full participation of Muslim and other minority groups in all aspects of national life, thus promoting national integration.

Mrs Gandhi asked all the ministers to send every quarter a special report on the results achieved.

Akali Dal Party To Launch New Line of Action

*BK121255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Longowal, announced in Amritsar today that the party will launch its new line of action on the 17th of next month. Addressing volunteers from the Akal Takhat [highest seat of Sikhs] in the Golden Temple, he said details of the program will be conveyed to them on that day.

Our correspondent understands that this decision of the Akali Dal has been made to give more time for finding a solution to the Punjab problem.

AFP: Program for Autonomy

BK121430 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] New Delhi, May 12 (AFP) — The Sikh Akali Dal Party today announced a June 17 "action" programme in the next phase of its campaign for an autonomous Punjab. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. Party headquarters in Amritsar said the "action" would be executed by its newly formed 100,000 strong volunteer "sacrifice force."

Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, president of the party seeking autonomy for the Sikh majority Punjab state, told an Amritsar's Golden Temple gathering that the programme would be "secretly" conveyed to the volunteers on June 14, the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth guru of the Sikhs.

Sant Longowal today administered the oath of supreme sacrifice to over 40,000 volunteers at the Akal Takhat, the highest Sikh spiritual seat at the Golden Temple. Over 31,000 volunteers took the first mass pledge last April 14. The second mass ceremony had been scheduled for April 27 but was postponed by a threatened strike of government roadways employees scheduled for the previous day.

Sant Longowal said a volunteers training camp would be held next June one to six. He also said that recruitment of volunteers would continue until May 31, though the target of 100,000 volunteers had been exceeded by 15,000.

Meanwhile, Sant Longowal made no mention of new proposals on Punjab from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government.

Federal Home Minister Prakash Chandra Sethi had announced in Parliament on Monday that new proposals had been formally made to Akali leaders. Press reports said the proposals included the setting up of a tribunal for a fresh look at the 1981 accord on the sharing of river waters between Punjab and the neighbouring state of Haryana. The reports added that the proposals called for dividing the city of Chandigarh, now serving as their common capital, between the two states of Punjab and Haryana. The Akali Dal wants Chandigarh given exclusively to Punjab.

Sant Longowal had said that the Akali Dal would not accept Chandigarh's partition.

Patiala Situation Seen Returning to Normal

*BK121259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas in Patiala is returning to normal. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the city. Curfew has been lifted for 12 hours today from 0700 to 1900.

Law-Order Situation in Bihar Remains Peaceful

*BK121611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] In Bihar the law-and-order situation throughout the state remained peaceful and under control on the 4th day of fill-the-jail campaign launched by eight opposition parties. According to a state government press release issued in Patna this evening, over 2,100 persons courted arrest today at various district headquarters.

Meanwhile, a press release issued by the joint campaigning committee of the eight opposition parties alleged lathi [baton] charge on the agitationists at Muzaffarpur, Khagaria, and Begusarai.

Chief Election Commissioner on Kashmir Election

*BK121617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 May 83*

[Excerpt] The chief election commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, has said that the election in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted in a peaceful manner at all cost. He said this in Srinagar today to Mr Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, who led a Congress-I deputation to meet him in connection with today's incident.

When the scrutiny of nomination papers was in progress a clash occurred between the supporters of the National Conference Jammu and Kashmir [political party] and Congress-I. According to Congress-I, 30 of their supporters were injured in what, they claimed, over unprovoked attack by National Conference supporters. They also said that two of their jeeps were damaged.

An official spokesman described the clash as a minor one and said the rival groups were disengaged without the use of force.

AFP on Election Violence

OW121944 Hong Kong AFP in English 1924 GMT 12 May 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 12 (AFP) — More than 100 people were injured in clashes between supporters of rival political parties or groups in various parts of Indian-held Kashmir today in connection with the coming general elections to the state (?legislative) assembly, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. The disputed (?border) state with Pakistan goes to the polls on June [figure indistinct]. No details of the incidents were available.

Two Killed, Three Injured in Incidents in Sikkim

*BK121621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] The governor of Sikkim, Mr Taleyarkhan, has held a series of meetings at Raj Bhawan [governor's house] on representations from the public of (Lakhim) regarding certain incidents involving local people and defense personnel. Two persons died and three others, including Army personnel, were injured in these incidents. The relations between the public and the defense personnel have now been restored to normalcy.

Mitterrand's Remarks on Economy Welcomed

*BK130746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
13 May 83*

[Text] India has welcomed French President Mitterrand's recent assertion that the economic recovery of the advanced countries cannot take place without the recovery of the developing nations. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the New Delhi message of the nonaligned summit had also pointed out that economic revival of the North is not possible without economic survival of the South.

OIC Commissions Finalize Science Recommendations

BK130651 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] The two commissions set up by the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Standing Committee on scientific and technological cooperation finalized their recommendations in Islamabad this evening. The recommendations will be incorporated in the report of the Standing Committee and presented to the plenary session tomorrow. The report has been finalized by the drafting group, of which Pakistan is the chairman. A conference spokesman told newsmen that both the commissions adopted very important recommendations on topics assigned to them. These recommendations were approved by consensus.

The first commission, headed by Pakistan, finalized recommendations on the question of building up scientific and technological capabilities of the Muslim ummah. These covered as many as nine items including manpower training, prevention of brain drain, the institutional structure at the national, regional, and ummah level, and scientific and technological education.

The second commission headed by Saudi Arabia finalized recommendations on the subject of mechanism for scientific and technological cooperation. It covered 13 items covering exchange of scientific information and materials and visits of scientists, engineers, and technicians.

A delegation of eminent scientists, participating in the OIC Standing Committee meeting on scientific and technological cooperation, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad this afternoon. They exchanged views on efforts to intensify understanding and cooperation among members of the OIC in the field of science and technology. The delegates stressed the need to identify means and formulate strategy to step up the pace of development and progress in the Islamic world utilizing modern scientific and technological methods. The secretary general of the OIC, Mr Habib Chatti, was present.

Yaqub Khan To Visit U.S., USSR, UK, PRC, France

BK111126 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, is to visit London, Paris, Washington, and Moscow within the next 5 weeks. As already announced, he will be in Beijing on Sunday and Monday. In the capitals of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the foreign minister will exchange views with his counterparts on the indirect talks on the Afghanistan problem which are to be resumed in Geneva on the 16th of next month. The foreign minister will also visit Saudi Arabia. While in the United States, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is expected to meet the secretary general of the United Nations.

JASARAT on Afghan Settlement 'Propaganda'

GF121331 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 8 May 83 p 3

[Editorial: "On Partial and Phased Soviet Withdrawal"]

[Text] According to AFP, the Soviet military authorities and the Karmal administration have been using the tripartite Geneva talks being held under UN aegis as a propaganda instrument within Afghanistan.

The Soviet helicopters have been dropping pamphlets in Herat, Farah, Helmand, Zabol, Kunar, Balkh, and along the Afghan-Soviet border. The pamphlets have so far been recovered in 14 Afghan provinces. The pamphlets declare that "all disputes over Afghanistan have been resolved" and that "all matters" have been decided, that the people should lay down their arms, that a decision on the return of refugees' return has been reached, and that those who lost their homes in the fighting will be helped by the government. The pamphlets also promise concessions to the mujahidin guerrilla fighters.

It is clear that the Geneva talks on Afghanistan are thus being used to mislead the Afghan people. Now let us note the reaction of the resistance leaders in Afghanistan to this propaganda ruse.

In recent days, as we mentioned before, resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has openly said that since the resistance was not included in the talks, it is not bound by any agreement reached there. He said that the real parties to the dispute were the Soviet Union and the Afghan resistance — the mujahidin. Neither of these is present at Geneva. That makes the talks just a farce.

Another mujahidin leader, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, has said in London that the Geneva talks will prove useless and that there were only two sides to the dispute: the Soviets and the mujahidin. The mujahidin are defending their liberty. If they fail in their struggle, many other countries will also suffer the consequences, he said.

Now with this background to the AFP report, and the statement by Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, we must look at a report by the UNI correspondent in Moscow. The UNI correspondent, quoting official Afghan sources, has said that the Soviet Army units along the Afghan border with Pakistan are expected to withdraw by September of this year. The territory so vacated would be used for the Afghan refugees returning home. According to the Indian sources, it was decided during April that this withdrawal of Soviet troops was agreed upon between the parties.

This means that what the Soviet pamphlets dropped from helicopters within Afghanistan said is being broadcast by the Indian news agencies all over the world for Moscow.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan said in Ankara that Pakistani and Turkish policies on Afghanistan are similar, that comprehensive agreement should be reached under which Afghan refugees should honorably return home, and that this would only be possible when the Soviet forces have left Afghanistan.

By this, the Pakistan foreign minister meant that the Soviet forces must withdraw from all over Afghanistan and has made this a condition for the return of the refugees to their homes. This seems the correct way of doing things.

Contrary to this, the Indian media, quoting Moscow authorities and Afghan official sources, are talking of an agreement under which the Soviet forces would first withdraw from territory adjacent to Pakistan. There is much differences between what the Pakistani foreign minister has said and what the Indian sources present. The Indian sources report that an agreement has already been reached, while the Pakistani foreign minister has been talking about the need for an agreement.

The Government of Pakistan must clarify this position through a proper statement. Any confusion over the issue can prove dangerous to both Pakistan and Afghanistan. And if there has been any agreement on the issue like that indicated by the Indian sources, it would prove a tragedy similar to the Tashkent agreement of the past. This is because by a partial withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Soviet Union wants to draw the refugees back into Afghanistan and then make them recognize the puppet Karmal administration. Then the Soviet Union would withdraw its forces after the said government has been secured and made safe.

However, if no agreement could be reached between the refugees and the puppet regime over recognition, one may expect greater confusion and greater confrontation. What is more, the refugees may consider Pakistan as being instrumental in putting them back into the fire that they had earlier escaped. On the other hand, if the Afghan resistance and the refugee leaders do not accept a partial Soviet withdrawal or the Afghan refugees refuse to comply with the arrangement, the Soviets and the Karmal administration could blame Pakistan by saying that despite the Soviet compliance with the 'agreement,' Pakistan was preventing the Afghan refugees from returning to the Soviet evacuated areas. It might be that Pakistan may come under pressure for not sending the refugees out as agreed. And if Pakistan put pressure on the refugees to obtain their compliance, it would unwillingly find itself arrayed on the wrong side of the resistance movement. The mujahidin would also accuse Pakistan of failing the freedom fight.

It is for this reason that we mentioned the statement by Prof Borhanuddin Rabbani issued in London. There is a part of his statement that stands out: "The mujahidin are fighting a life and death war for their liberty. If they fail, other countries may also suffer the consequences."

The meaning is clear, that is, no country should become an instrument for failing the Afghan freedom struggle. If it does, it must face the consequences.

Another aspect of his statement also deserves notice. He said that the Afghan refugees do not just want to return to their country; they want to return to a free country and are willing to fight to the end for that freedom. They will not consider Afghanistan a free country until it is completely rid of the Soviet forces and their puppets.

The matter is more complicated than it seems at first. The refugees will not just return to the territory vacated by the Soviet forces. In fact, partial solutions or partial agreements will not solve anything. A comprehensive agreement is needed. A comprehensive agreement will only be possible when there are talks between the Soviets and the Afghan mujahidin leaders — as these are the only real parties to the dispute.

The Geneva talks have a drawback. At these talks, although the secondary parties are present, the primary parties are missing. Any agreement reached by the secondary parties may not have the same credit as would one reached between the primary parties.

At the Geneva talks, Pakistan should stress that the Soviets should have direct talks with the mujahidin and help provide the opportunity for such talks.

Briefs

Oil Discovery — Rawalpindi — The Oil and Gas Development Corporation has discovered a major oil field at (Dhakani), some 75 km from Chakwal. A French-Soviet consortium is carrying out oil explorations in the (Dhodak) area. The oil exploration expansion project in the (Dhodak) area is estimated to cost 750 million rupees. The oil discovered at (Dhakani) is undergoing chemical analysis to determine its commercial value. [Text] [Lahore JANG in Urdu 5 May 83 p 1 GF]

Materials on Iraqi Missile Attack on Andimeshk

Propaganda Headquarters Statement

*LD121345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
12 May 83*

[Statement issued by War Propaganda Headquarters on 12 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The defeated forces of the Zionist Saddam, who are unable to confront the powerful forces of Islam in the battlefields of the war between truth and falsehood and who are angry at the self-sacrifices of the heroic and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, fired this morning in an inhuman attack on a residential town of our Islamic homeland and launched a missile attack on the residential areas of the heroic town of Andimeshk, resulting in the martyrdom and injury of more than 100 civilians of that town, thus adding another page to the record of their crimes.

While expressing its condolences to the blessed presence of the lord of the age — may God hasten his glad advent — and his rightful vice regent, the idol-smashing Khomeyni, the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation, especially the heroic people of Andimeshk and the relatives of those who were martyred as a result of this crime, the War Propaganda Headquarters ask all representatives of the domestic and foreign mass media resident in Tehran to visit that town in order to prepare reports, films, and pictures about the latest frightful crimes of the Zionist regime of Saddam.

We hope for the day when the satanic regime of Baghdad has been toppled and when the government of Islamic justice has been established in the Islamic land of Iraq, God willing.

Central News Unit Report

*LD121128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
12 May 83*

[Central News Unit correspondent dispatch from Ahvaz]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As a continuation of the repeated crimes perpetrated by Zionist Saddam against our country's defenseless civilian population, once again this godless criminal, with fresh permission from the Eastern and Western superpowers and following the meeting between Mikhail Yuhanna 'Aziz, Zionist Saddam's deputy, and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, has perpetrated a new crime. At 0845 today, he turned the city of Andimeshk into a target of the missiles supplied by his Eastern and Western superpower masters.

The result of this barbarous crime to date is that more than 120 Muslim inhabitants of this city were wounded for no crime other than being Muslims, and another 15, among whom could be seen a 3-year-old child and a 1-day-old baby, were martyred. Also as a result of this bestial crime, which continues to demonstrate the cowardice and weakness of Saddam vis-a-vis the righteousness of the Islamic combatants on the battlefronts, more than 200 houses and stores and 1 school were destroyed.

In the first minutes that followed the missile attack, the Muslim population of this city actively and unitedly hastened to assist the relief and aid staff headquarters. Efforts continue to extricate from the debris the bodies of the dead and wounded.

In connection with this horrible crime perpetrated by the bloodthirsty Saddamist regime, the Khuzestan governorate-general has declared tomorrow a day of mourning throughout Khuzestan Province.

Latest Casualty Figures

*LD121713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
12 May 83*

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, following the missile attack launched by the Ba'hist-Zionist Iraqi regime on the martyr-nurturing city of Andimeshk, the latest toll of martyrs and wounded in this savage incident was announced at 1745 as being 17 martyrs and 123 wounded.

Khamene'i Statement

*LD121832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
12 May 83*

[Statement by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on 12 May — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Beloved compatriots, brothers and sisters: This morning the brave and heroic people of Andimeshk were attacked by the savage enemy's missiles. During this attack, a number of your innocent compatriots in this city were martyred or wounded. The enemy's long-range missiles, which are the superpowers' gift to an aggressive regime, are now used to destroy the cities and residential and civilian areas of a revolutionary country that wants to live independently and honorably.

The superpowers, by unstintingly supporting the Saddam regime and taking advantage of his savagery, try to put pressure on revolutionary Iran and the Muslim and resisting Iranian nation. The bombings and the missile attack on Iran's residential and civilian areas are aimed at pressuring our nation to accept what the big powers impose. The enemies of Islam, the revolution, and Iran think that by such actions they will be able to crush the willpower of the revolutionary nation and intensify their aggression. They imagine that by pounding cities and defenseless civilians they will be able to shake the firm and unshakeable will of our nation to continue the struggle until all its revolutionary goals have been achieved.

Those who claim to be supporters of human rights, of peace and international security, are waiting to see if the repetition of such crimes will break the spirit of resistance in our nation, so that the way for the imposition of a disgraceful peace will be opened. International organizations which claim to support the rights of nations, by their deadly silence, endorse Iraq's attack on the residential areas of our country and ignore the killing of

defenseless people. By the enforcement of peace and international security, they intend to put an oppressed nation under pressure and, therefore, they support the aggressors either implicitly or explicitly. They endorse the efforts of the superpowers aimed at crushing a nation's resistance and think international security can be enforced by bombing residential areas and by missile attacks on defenseless homes, schools, and mosques.

However, the Iranian nation and Government have a clear reply to the world: With the aid of divine power and might, we have the power to smash the aggressive enemy. In our opinion, peace and security will only be obtained by crushing the aggressor. Therefore, with God's help and with vigilant presence on the scene of the struggle, we endeavor to eradicate aggression in this region forever.

Beloved compatriots, oh combative and free people of Andimeshk, we will avenge the blood of your martyrs and will not allow the aggressors to continue their crimes with impunity.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamenei', president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,313

LD121903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
12 May 83

[Communique No 1,313 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the basis of reports received from the forces, around 0900 today, the criminal Saddamists, by launching missiles on the city of Andimeshk, once again showed their inhumanity, weakness, and impotence. As a result of that tragic event and great crime, a number of our compatriots were martyred and wounded and heavy damage was sustained by homes, shops, and a school.

Fighting continued yesterday on most of the country's western fronts in the form of exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire. Our able combatants, by dispatching patrol and reconnaissance groups and with their timely artillery fire disrupted or halted movement by the Saddamist forces' motorized columns. Known losses sustained by the Saddamist forces included one truck, one 57-mm gun, and several bunkers which were destroyed. No precise report is available on enemy casualties.

On the Marivan front, as a result of active fire by our forces, the Iraqi artillery fire was silenced and our forces, firing on the Saddamist positions in (?Beyraveh) inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the enemy. Those losses and casualties included destruction of personnel and ordnance bunkers.

On the southern fronts, the victorious and powerful combatants of Islam continued to defend their positions and observed the moves and activities of the Saddamist forces. They also answered and silenced the mercenary Iraqi forces' fire with their defensive fire.

On the Faqih front, some enemy elements trying to infiltrate our forces' defensive lines were repelled by our forces' timely fire. Enemy patrol groups sustained some losses and were forced to flee.

In the course of exchanges of fire on the Abadan front, the combatants of Islam stationed at that region opened fire on enemy positions and forces across the Arvand Rud, silenced the Saddamist forces' fire, blocked the Iraqi forces' moves and changes of position, and completely destroyed one enemy foxhole and one bunker and killed or injured a number of Iraqi soldiers.

The city of Abadan yesterday once again came under the artillery fire of the mercenary Saddamist forces as a result of which some parts of the city sustained damages.

In the past 24 hours, all aggression by aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi Armed Forces on the country's southern and western borders was repulsed by the tactical moves of the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the protection rendered by our air defense units.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

80 People Reported Killed, Wounded in Dezful Attack

LD122101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT
2 May 83

[Text] At 2050, the criminal Saddamists once again attacked the resisting and martyr-nurturing city of Dezful with missiles.

A report by an IRNA correspondent from the heroic city of Dezful indicates that as a result of that savage attack that lasted until 2300, more than 80 Dezful civilians were martyred and wounded, around 40 houses were destroyed, and several other houses and shops were damaged.

At the same time, efforts by relief groups helped by the people of Dezful to bring out other victims of this missile attack are continuing. This is the third time that the city of Dezful has been attacked by Iraqi missiles in the past 2 months.

Official Leaves for Environment Summit in Nairobi

GF121703 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Deputy prime minister and head of the organization for protection of the environment, Mirza Taheri, today left Tehran for Nairobi, Kenya, to attend the eleventh ministerial summit of Third World countries.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure Mirza Taheri said that the summit is held annually with the participation of member countries to decide environmental policies. The Iranian delegation he added, would bring up issue of the contamination of the Persian Gulf waters caused by the Iraqi attack on the Iranian

offshore oil wells. The delegates would be provided with sufficient documents proving the Iraqi attack on the Iranian oil wells. He further told IRNA that in the summit once again the Iranian delegation would announce willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cap the oil wells and start cleaning up operation.

Contamination in Persian Gulf waters resulted from an Iraqi attack on Iran's Nowruz oil field last March.

Secretary Shultz' Trip, Paris Talks Examined

LD121918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT
12 May 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the conclusion of the Middle East mission of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, which ended in a fiasco, Paris has now become the new center of the Arab reactionaries' and U.S. imperialists' plotting against the struggling forces in the Middle East.

According to a Central News Unit report, Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al 'Aziz held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has also arrived in Paris and is expected to have talks with his Saudi counterpart there. Earlier the U.S. press announced that the U.S. defense secretary will meet members of the Saudi Arabian Government in the French capital. The U.S. press revealed that Weinberger is seeking to persuade the Saudis to pressure Syria to endorse the agreement between Lebanon and the Zionist regime on the withdrawal of Zionist forces from Lebanon.

It is noteworthy that George Shultz concluded his visit to the Middle East and arrived in Paris prior to the announcement of the Saudi and U.S. defense ministers' meeting. Political observers say that the two meetings cannot be unconnected. Shultz undoubtedly informed the French authorities about U.S. views on problems in Lebanon and called on both sides [as heard] to encourage Saudi Arabia to pressure Syria to accept the agreement on the withdrawal of Zionist forces from Lebanon.

In press conference remarks prior to his departure from Paris, George Shultz called on the USSR to encourage Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. He called on the USSR to display the same interest in a Lebanese peace settlement that the United States is showing.

It goes without saying that throughout the Lebanese crisis, particularly after the occupation of Lebanon by the Zionist forces last year, there has been some certainty that the USSR will also become a party to the talks on the Palestinian problem.

The relatively prolonged Soviet silence during the Zionist attack on Lebanon, the withdrawal of the Palestinians from Lebanon, and subsequent events demonstrate that the Soviet Union to a certain extent is satisfied with the current situation in the Middle East. It also goes without saying that the USSR often has accepted the presence of the Zionist regime in the occupied regions as a country and is moving toward a stance whereby the

Arabs [as heard], Palestinians, and Zionists should live in peace and amity within joint borders.

Another point about Shultz' visit to France is his meeting there with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. During this meeting, the representative of the illegal and mercenary Iraqi regime announced that his country endorsed the withdrawal of Syrian forces and the PLO from Lebanon. In his press conference, Shultz said that relations between the United States and Iraq could be better. [as heard] This announcement by the U.S. secretary of state brings to mind the secret relations between U.S. imperialism and the Zionist Ba'thist regime in Baghdad, which began with the start of the war imposed by Iraq on the Islamic Republic, and are becoming stronger daily. What is important is that Tariq 'Aziz continues to stay in Paris and yesterday also met and had talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger. This is thought to be the highest level meeting between the two countries since the Arab-Zionist war of June 1967, which culminated in the severance of U.S.-Iraqi relations.

In any event, face-to-face meetings between Sultan 'Abd al-'Aziz, Tariq 'Aziz, George Shultz, Caspar Weinberger, and the French leaders is an issue to be commented on and analyzed by political observers.

One should note that the meeting between Arab reactionaries and the U.S. and European officials in Paris lifts the veil from a new plot being hatched against the struggling forces in the Middle East. This plot first is aimed at Lebanon and then at the other countries in the Middle East. It appears that throughout these meetings the groundwork for military exchanges and the sale of U.S. and European arms to the Arab countries in the region are to be discussed.

In this connection, Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense who is the brother of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in his meeting with Mitterrand and then with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu discussed the implementation of the second phase of the French-Saudi arms agreement. The agreement is worth FR14 billion. The previous agreement, signed between Riyadh and Paris in October 1980, was one of the biggest arms agreements to be signed by France with a Third World country so far. The agreement covers the reconstruction of the Saudi Navy, the delivery of 4 2,000-metric-ton ships equipped with ground-to-ground missiles, 1 ship (?carrying) a tanker aircraft, and 24 helicopter gunships. In the second part of the agreement, which spans a period of 10 years, logistical training for the Saudi Navy and the delivery of electronic equipment are envisaged.

Since the war imposed on Iran, Iraq has also received arms and aircraft from France to the tune of thousands of millions of dollars and continues to want further military aid from France.

The immense Saudi-Iraqi arms agreements and those of other Arab countries in the region with U.S. imperialism and the West and the meeting between the bosses of the above countries demonstrates that the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region and beyond do not shrink from any step in establishing solidarity and alliances with criminal imperialism. This will bring nothing but harm to the progressive forces in the region and the struggling Muslim nations.

Free Voice of Iran on Divisions Among Mullahs

GF071842 (Clandestine) *Free Voice of Iran in Persian* 1500 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] The dissolution of the Iranian Tudeh Communist Party and the arrest and confessions of this party's leaders have created a big rift in the leadership cadre of the mullahs' regime in Tehran.

According to our correspondent in Tehran, Behzad Nabavi, the regime's minister of heavy industries, and Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi, the Islamic Republic's commander of the Ground Forces, are currently under suspicion of membership in and cooperation with the Tudeh Party. It is being said that they have clandestine ties with foreign elements.

The former commander of the navy, Captain Afzali, and eight high-ranking naval officers were arrested earlier for membership and cooperation with the Tudeh Party. Musavi-Kho'iniha, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's deputy in the mullahs' Majlis who led the student followers in the hostage saga, is among the mullahs accused of following the Tudeh line by the fundamentalists in Tehran.

Our correspondent adds that a rumor circulating in Tehran is about Hashemi-Rafsanjani staying home and maintaining silence as a sign of protest against the arrest of the Tudeh leaders and the dissolution of this party. Other reports say that Rafsanjani is trying to leave Iran.

Following these developments, it was announced in Tehran today that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hamid Rohani has been put in charge of the center for Islamic revolution documents. This appointment follows the arrest of the former head of the SAVAMA archives. According to a directive by Hosayn Musavi, the illegal prime minister, issued today, Mullah Hamid Rohani has been appointed as acting director of SAVAMA's archives and book-keeping department.

Radio Iran on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Remarks on War

GF101830 (Clandestine) *Radio Iran in Persian* 1330 GMT 10 May 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in remarks made to a group of guards, who were referred to as Islamic warriors by the radio of the regime, supported the continuation of the war. In answer to that faction of the regime which wants an end to the war, he said in a threatening manner: We are the main decisionmakers about the war. No one in the world can decide about the war. It is we who can carry out whatever operation deemed necessary to enforce our wishes.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while announcing the continuation of the war, went so far as to state that the slogan "War, war until victory" is a reality in the Islamic society. [Words indistinct] and considered it one of rights of the Islamic regime. In other words, as long as the regime of the Islamic Republic remains, war and all its side effects such as unemployment, bankruptcy, poverty, disease, refugees, corruption, and political crisis will continue as

the reality. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing all the internal and external opponents of the war forcefully said: It is we who will decide.

Political experts say that remarks by Rafsanjani, who was trying to speak forcefully, seemed more like an ultimatum. According to them, it was a warning to those who have been murmuring antiwar phrases more and more after the decimation of the Tudeh Party.

It has been said in Tehran that following the operations that overthrew the Tudeh Party, even some officials of the Islamic regime, have shown an unprecedented desire to end the war. A faction in the regime even reached the conclusion that (?they can end the war) by making an estimate on the cost of the damages and offering the Iraqi regime a chance to pay reparations. The same faction shot an arrow in the dark by asking for over \$100 billion in reparations so that maybe they could neutralize the attitude of the warmongering faction who claim the war to be jihad, [word indistinct], holy war, war for dear Jerusalem, and the war of right against wrong.

What was important in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks was the point that he, for the first time, criticized martyrdom, martyrdom-seeking, and martyrdom on the holy path, and told those going to the fronts: Martyrdom is not the aim, try to avoid becoming martyrs and return safely. In another part he said: We have to try and reduce the number of martyrs.

Rafsanjani's remarks, in addition to attesting the depth of the calamity of the war, shows that the unaccountable number of war dead has even caused concern in the regime. This also shows that the leftist religious warmongering faction wishes to replace religious values with military ones. The leftist religious faction was unable to take one victorious step irrespective of all its 30-month-long propaganda, by calling the war Islamic and announcing that participation in the war is a religious duty, and by showing the key to heaven to the Islamic warriors. The calamitous defeat of the Wal Fajr operation, which was referred to by Rafsanjani as the last in the victorious series of operations, broke the back of the leftist religious faction.

Now, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has reached the conclusion that by downplaying Islamic slogans and by portraying the values of military solutions he can [words indistinct]. It is most unlikely that members of the Armed Forces who are connected with the leftist religious faction will be able to do anything.

NVOI Calls For End to Fascist Methods Against Tudeh

TA121924 (Clandestine) *National Voice of Iran in Persian* 1730 GMT 12 May 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Protest and Concern of Progressive Mankind"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Following the arrest and application of brutal Middle Ages torture against members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, a certain group in the Islamic leadership, particularly the pseudojurisconsults, the pseudoclergy, and their elements, by taking advantage of the people's religious beliefs,

are constantly hurling whatever accusations and slanders they have in store, from the pulpits or during press interviews, at the Iranian Tudeh Party and the true revolutionary forces.

The issue of the use of torture against Tudeh Party members by torture agents and security guards of the Islamic Government is so obvious and undeniable that not only the people and the world's newspapers and press are confirming it but the mouthpieces and spokesmen of the Islamic Government also are implicitly acknowledging it.

Who does not know that this same Mr Reza'i, minister [as heard] of the Guards Corps, in the press conference which he arranged, remained silent in response to the question by the correspondents as to whether the confessions obtained from members of the Tudeh Party were on the basis of torture. Indeed, what could he have said when the people with their own eyes saw on the television screens the haggard features of all arrested members of the Iranian Tudeh Party?

The concern and protests of progressive mankind and world public opinion particularly stem from the crimes being perpetrated in our homeland in an aura of a broad propaganda campaign based on the provocations and intimations of counter-revolutionary elements, the rightists and the SAVAKists who have changed color as well as of British, U.S., and Israeli intelligence organizations.

As you are observing, the concern of progressive forces and the progressive world's outstanding cultural, literary, and political figures about the assault by the rightists and the pseudo-Iranian agents of Western intelligence organizations against the Iranian Tudeh Party is a just concern. It is not acceptable to the struggling nation of mankind that a group of rightists, reactionaries, and supporters of the parasitic stratum, feudalists and major capitalists, by resorting to various Middle Ages tortures, false charges, and an aura of demagogic propaganda, launch a brutal attack on members of a party that has sincerely defended and continues to defend the revolution, the toilers, and the oppressed. An end must be put to these Fascist methods of the Middle Ages.

USSR Reportedly Asked To Halt Aid to Iraq

GF130646 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran in Persian
1930 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] According to a reliable and detailed report that we have received, the regime's authorities have asked the Soviet Union through diplomatic circles and through the Syrians to halt aid to Iraq so that the good-neighborly relations between their two countries can be renewed. In exchange, the leaders of the Tudeh Parth may get a reprieve from execution.

As we had already commented in Seda-ye Iran, the (?drama) of the hostage taking and negotiating their release will be repeated in the Islamic Republic, but this time with the Soviet Union.

Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Departs 12 May

LD121239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
12 May 83

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent's report, Abdullah Konte, Sierra Leone's foreign minister, who visited our country at the head of a political delegation, left Tehran this morning. Before his departure, a political, cultural, and economic memorandum of understanding was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sierra Leone.

At the time of the departure of Sierra Leone's foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in an interview with our correspondent concerning the results of this visit, said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, ever since the revolution, the direction of our foreign policy has changed [words indistinct]. The Islamic Republic is very interested in having relations with African countries. Sierra Leone is a country situated in West Africa and about 70 percent of its population is Muslim. A few months ago, we started to open an embassy there. Our first ambassador to Sierra Leone will go to his new post with this delegation.

A few months ago, a delegation came to Iran from Sierra Leone, which was mainly concerned with economic and commercial issues. They reached certain agreements with the Islamic Republic. It is planned that the exchange of goods and the expansion of economic relations between the two countries should be given priority. Sierra Leone is able to export timber and some agricultural goods which we need. In return, we can export some goods to Sierra Leone. On the whole, during the past few months, the expansion of relations between us and Sierra Leone has been advancing very well.

Following the visit of the previous delegation from Sierra Leone which was a commercial delegation, I invited Mr Abdullah Konte to come to Tehran. He came to Tehran and, during his visit, although it was short, he had some meetings with his excellency the president, his excellency the prime minister, His Excellency 'Askar-Owladi, and myself. At the end of the visit, we signed a memorandum of understanding which clarifies the framework of political, economic, and cultural relations-- primarily cultural exchanges, preparation for commercial exchanges, and the announcement of similar viewpoints -- which are not few -- which we share with Sierra Leone on African issues, the OAU, the Palestinian issue, and our common position as two Islamic countries vis-a-vis Israel and world arrogance. [end recording]

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ends Iran Visit*LD130051 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 83*

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister left Tehran today at the conclusion of talks with our country's top-ranking officials.

The Nicaraguan minister, who visited our country at the head of a Nicaraguan delegation, told our correspondent before leaving Tehran that the aims behind his trip to Iran had been the expansion of friendly cooperation and trade and political ties between our two countries. He further said that during his tour of Iran he got the chance to explain the effects of the aggression of U.S. imperialism against Nicaragua. He said the United States had decided to launch a new (?official) threat in the field of economics against Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade added: In addition to supporting the counterrevolutionaries militarily, the United States has started an economic fight against us. We examined this U.S. economic offensive with our brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran, so as to be able to act more accurately on the implementation of our previous accords and the expansion of trade ties. As I leave your country, I can tell you that we have reached final agreement on the expansion of bilateral cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Clashes With 'Counterrevolutionaries,' Smugglers*LD130047 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 83*

[Text] The public relations office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Committee announced in a statement that in clashes in recent days in the Kavir-e-Lut between brother committee members and the Gendarmerie force stationed in Zahedan on the one hand and elements of the counterrevolution and smugglers on the other, extensive casualties were inflicted on the alien mercenaries and a number of counterrevolutionaries were killed and wounded. During these clashes two Gendarmerie personnel and two guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee were martyred. The martyrs will be transferred to Tehran tomorrow for their funeral, which will be attended by the martyr-nurturing and ever-present on the scene people of Tehran.

Tudeh Party Reportedly Says Reza'i Planning Coup*GF081732 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 8 May 83*

[Text] Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Guards Corps, is waiting to stage a coup d'etat in Iran.

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party outside Iran has issued a communique refuting all charges against the Tudeh Party leaders. The leaders of the Tudeh Party admitted that they had intended to stage a coup in Iran after Khomeyni's demise. The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party while denying this in its communique said: It was not the Tudeh Party which sought to topple the Khomeyni regime, but it is Mohsen Reza'i, com-

mander of the Guards Corps, who plans to stage a coup d'etat in Iran after Khomeyni.

Clashes Between Guards Cited*GF101904 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 10 May 83*

[Text] Following the intensification of a power struggle within the Guards Corps, Mohsen Reza'i was ordered to go to Jamaran this morning to meet with Ruhollah Khomeyni. According to our reports, a group of guards, who are against the war, are pessimistic about and disappointed with the suspicious policies of the imam's line faction and have clashed with other guards opposing them in several instances. News agencies today reported that the clashes which have intensified due to the instigation of the leftist religious groups may end in severe armed clashes.

Following the news that Mohsen Reza'i intended to stage a coup, a group of guards requested his removal as the commander of the guards. One of Reza'i's staunchest opponents is the minister of the Guards Corps.

The Pakistani publication MASHRIQ, published in the United Kingdom, has announced that in an armed clash between pro-Rafiqdust and pro-Reza'i guards in Tehran, 19 people were killed.

Briefs

Trade Talks With CSSR — Tehran, May 3 IRNA — Mr Garcar, a Czechoslovakian Foreign Ministry official heading an economic-commercial delegation, visiting here met and conferred with Hojatollah Ghanimi Fardm, the Iranian deputy in charge of foreign trade here today. The two sides expressed desire for the expansion of trade exchanges and interchange of industrial and technological information between the two countries, which in principle was approved. At the end of the meeting, a compromise was reached on the possible increase of exports of Iran's non-oil products to Czechoslovakia in the current year. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 3 May 83 LD]

Cooperation With PRC — Tehran, May 6, IRNA — Iran and the fields of road and port construction and aviation. This was announced by Iranian minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan who ended his ten-day trip to the People's Republic of China Thursday [5 May]. Speaking to IRNA, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan added that the Iranian delegation held talks with Chinese officials in the fields of agriculture, fishery, livestock, roads, ports, and railways. The Iranian delegation also studied ways and means of cooperation with China in the field of railway construction and its side industries. It was decided that groups of Chinese experts would travel to Iran in the future. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 1913 GMT 6 May 83 LD]